

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
June 19, 2006**

**Status
Statewide Diversity Study**

At its July 18, 2005, meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education adopted the recommendation of its Committee on Equal Opportunities (CEO) that the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the public postsecondary institutions, conduct an environmental scan (diversity study) to determine its compelling state interest, if any, to engage in diversity planning. An RFP was issued March 17, 2006, with a response date of April 28, 2006.

The request for proposals was forwarded to over 24 vendors, advertised in a regional newspaper, and forwarded to three professional organizations for distribution to their membership. The Council received four proposals to implement the statewide diversity study. The proposals are currently being evaluated by the postsecondary diversity study evaluation team. A recommendation is expected in early July. Following selection of a vendor and award of a contract, the final project report will be due by June 30, 2007.

The purpose of the diversity study is to examine and determine how to best structure policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for underrepresented minority groups in the Commonwealth. The study will ultimately determine whether the Commonwealth should continue its focus specifically on Kentucky resident African Americans or include other groups. Since Kentucky began its equal opportunity planning at the public postsecondary institutions, the focus has remained on one group, Kentucky resident African Americans, to remove remaining vestiges of de jure segregation that impacted their enrollment, retention, and graduation for many years. The CEO recommended and the Council agreed to continue the current plan until the Office for Civil Rights informs Kentucky of its status under the Partnership Agreement.

Project Status and Next Steps:

1. Four proposals were received.
2. The proposals are being reviewed by the diversity study evaluation team.
3. Recommendation and selection of a vendor is anticipated by July 2006.
4. The estimated study begin date is August 2006.
5. The estimated study completion date is June 30, 2007.